

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ENERGY DIVISION

RESOLUTION E-4932

July 12, 2018

R E S O L U T I O N

Resolution E-4932. Approves Southern California Edison's, PacifiCorp's, Pacific Gas and Electric's, and San Diego Gas & Electric's advice letters revising Electric Rule 11 pursuant to Decision 17-12-024.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Approves Southern California Edison's (SCE), PacifiCorp's (PAC), Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) and San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E) revisions to Electric Rule 11 which incorporate new fire safety regulations to reduce the fire hazards associated with overhead powerline facilities.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- The new regulations allow the Utilities to mitigate threats to public safety posed by breaches in the minimum vegetation clearance or by dead, rotten, diseased, leaning, or overhanging trees by disconnecting service to customers who obstruct access to such vegetation.

ESTIMATED COST:

- There is no cost impact.

By Advice Letters 3766-E (SCE), 5251-E (PG&E) and 3195-E (SDG&E) filed on March 13, 2018, and 562-E (PAC) filed on March 21, 2018.

SUMMARY

This Resolution approves SCE's, PAC's, PG&E's and SDG&E's ("Utilities") revisions to Electric Rule 11 – Discontinuance and Restoration of Service – in compliance with Decision (D.)17-12-024 from the Fire-Threat Map and Fire Safety Rulemaking (R.)15-05-006. The new fire safety regulations outlined in

D.17-12-024 grant the Utilities the authority to disconnect service to a customer in the High Fire Threat Districts, as designated in General Order (GO) 95, when either one or more of the following conditions occur: (1) there is breach of the minimum vegetation clearances required for power lines and support structures; and (2) the Utility has obtained a written determination from an arborist that a dead rotten, diseased, leaning, or overhanging tree (or parts thereof) poses an imminent or immediate risk for falling onto, or otherwise contacting, a power line.

BACKGROUND

Fire-Threat Map and Fire-Safety Rulemaking (R.)15-05-006.

On May 15, 2015, the Commission opened Rulemaking (R.)15-05-006 to: 1) develop and adopt statewide fire-threat maps; and, 2) to identify, evaluate and adopt fire-safety regulations for the high fire-threat areas (“High Fire-Threat Districts”) in California, including regulations to reduce the fire hazards associated with overhead powerline facilities.

D.17-12-024 adopts new regulations to enhance the fire safety of overhead electric and communication lines located in High Fire-Threat Districts.

On December 21, 2017, the Commission issued D.17-12-024 adopting new regulations to enhance the fire safety of overhead electric power lines and communication lines located in High Fire-Threat Districts. Included in D.17-12-024 were revisions to Electric Rule 11 that allows the Utilities to disconnect electric service to a customer who obstructs access to defective trees that pose an imminent or immediate threat to public safety and need to be trimmed or removed in High Fire-Threat Districts. Appendix B of D.17-12-024 included pro forma tariffs of Electric Rule 11 that were adopted by the Decision and Ordering Paragraph (OP) 7 of the Decision ordered the Utilities to conform their Electric Rule 11 tariffs with Decision via Tier 3 Advice Letters within 90 days of the Decision.

PG&E, SCE, SDG&E and PAC filed timely Advice Letters in response to D.17-12-024.

PG&E, SCE and SDG&E filed ALs 5251-E, 3766-E and 3195-E respectively on March 13, 2018 and PacifiCorp filed AL 562-E on March 21, 2018.

NOTICE

Notice of Advice Letters 3766-E (SCE), 5251-E (PG&E) 3195-E (SDG&E) and 562-E (PAC) were made by publication in the Commission's Daily Calendar. The utilities state that copies of Advice Letters 3766-E (SCE), 5251-E (PG&E) 3195-E (SDG&E) and 562-E (PAC) were distributed in accordance with Section 4.3 of G.O. 96-B.

PROTESTS

Advice Letters 3766-E (SCE), 5251-E (PG&E) 3195-E (SDG&E) and 562-E (PAC) were not protested.

DISCUSSION

The Utilities' revisions to Electric Tariff Rule 11 comply with D.17-12-024 and are approved.

COMMENTS

This is an uncontested matter in which the resolution grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to PU Code 311(g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. On May 15, 2015, the Commission opened R.15-05-006 to adopt statewide fire-safety regulations to reduce the fire hazards associated with overhead powerline facilities.

2. On December 21, 2017, the Commission issued D.17-12-024 adopting new regulations to enhance the fire safety of overhead electric lines located in High Fire-Threat Districts.
3. D.17-12-024 required the Utilities to file Tier 3 Advice Letters with revisions to their Electric Tariff Rule 11 sheets that modeled the pro forma in the Appendix of D.17-12-024.
4. The pro forma authorizes the Utilities to disconnect electricity to customers who obstruct access to defective trees that pose safety threats.
5. The Advice Letters 3766-E (SCE), 5251-E (PG&E) and 3195-E (SDG&E) were filed on March 13, 2018, and 562-E (PAC) was filed on March 21, 2018.
6. The Utilities' revisions to Electric Tariff Rule 11 comply with D.17-12-024.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. PG&E's, SCE's, SDG&E's, and PAC's revised Electric Tariff Rule 11 sheets are adopted and replace their current respective Electric Tariff Rule 11 sheets. Advice Letters 3766-E (SCE), 5251-E (PG&E), 3195-E (SDG&E) and 562-E (PAC) are approved.

This Resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on July 12, 2018; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

/s/ ALICE STEBBINS
ALICE STEBBINS
Executive Director

MICHAEL PICKER
President
CARLA J. PETERMAN
LIANE M. RANDOLPH
MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES
CLIFFORD RECHTSCHAFFEN
Commissioners